# SIKKIM

# GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

## EXTRAORDINARY
## PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

Gangtok | Wednesday 15th October, 2025 | No. 401


**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**
**FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**
**GANGTOK DISTRICT**

**No. GoS/FED/PCCF/PR.SECY/44** **Date:-13.10.2025**

**NOTIFICATION**

**SUBJECT: STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP) "MERO RUKH MERO SANTATI" (MRMS) INITIATIVE**

***Mero Rukh Mero Santati*** is a novel green initiative of the Sikkim State Government to strengthen the connect between parents, children and nature by planting trees to commemorate child birth. It aims to plant **108 trees** for every new born child in Sikkim. Watching the tree grow, as the baby grows, is a symbolic way of commemorating their arrival and is good for the planet as well. The noble initiative was launched by the Honourable Chief Minister of Sikkim, Shri Prem Singh Tamang Golay, on 02/02/2023.

Sikkimese society has had an intimate association with nature since time immemorial. We not only revere our mountains, lakes, rivers, caves and springs, but venerate the entire landscape as sacred. This initiative aims to reinforce this age-old bond of our society with nature. It aspires to co-create an ecosystem where both the tree and the child are able to reach towards the sun, a brighter tomorrow that promises vitality, health and happiness.

To ground this initiative various departments of the Government of Sikkim will converge to facilitate seamless service to the new parents right from enrolment to planting and after care. ASHA, Anganwadi workers, gram panchayats, urban local bodies and forest staff will facilitate the on boarding of the parents.

**Objectives**

- *To generate a sense of affinity and reverence for nature and compassion for flora and fauna in the state.*
- *To leave a better environmental legacy for future generations.*
- *To embrace plants as one's own child or friend.*
- *To improve the tree cover in the state.*
- *A step towards making Sikkim climate change resilient.*

**Salient Features**

- *Convergence and coordination between various departments.*
- *Linking of Birth Registration with the MRMS platform.*
- *108 saplings will be provided by the Forest and Environment Department and other Departments where applicable.*
- *Hassle free registration with Google form or forms available at the nearest GVK/BAC/ Forest Range Office etc.*
- *A dedicated WhatsApp Number for any query/assistance.*
- *Incentives for maintenance and survival of the planted sapling.*

**Five Pillars of Mero Rukh Mero Santati (MRMS):**
The initiative is anchored on five foundational pillars that give it depth, meaning and sustainability:

1. **Emotional Bonding**
   - MRMS nurtures enduring familial emotional bonds between parents, their children and the trees planted in their name.
   - Parents see the trees as an extension of their newborn child. The saplings become living symbols of the child, growing as part of the family.

2. **Spirituality**
   - The number 108 holds profound cultural and spiritual meaning across traditions, symbolizing completeness and universal connection.
   - MRMS elevates tree plantation into a sacred act.

3. **Celebration**
   - Each plantation is a celebration of life and a promise for a greener future.
   - MRMS transforms tree plantation from a departmental task into a vibrant public movement.
   - Birthday celebrations at plantation sites are leading to the birth of a new culture.

4. **Growing Together**
   - As the child grows into a healthy adult, young saplings also grow into strong and healthy trees.
   - The collective growth of "Rukh" (Tree) and "Santati" (Child) is being tracked together through a paradigm shift in monitoring plantations – *Santati Dastavez.*

5. **Carbon Neutrality**
   - The per capita carbon footprint of an average Indian is 2.4 tonnes of $CO_2$ equivalent. On an average, 108 trees sequester 2.7 tonnes of $CO_2$ equivalent of carbon.
   - By planting 108 trees at the birth of their child, parents are giving their progeny the gift of a life free from the debt of carbon emissions.

This SOP outlines procedures to ensure:

i. Plantation of quality, site-appropriate indigenous species.
ii. Public participation with a sense of emotional ownership.
iii. Use of fruiting, flowering and ecologically beneficial native trees.
iv. Support for spring-shed rejuvenation and preservation of Sikkim's forest heritage.

**Key Stakeholders**

i. New Parents / Families
ii. Local NGOs and Eco-Clubs
iii. Panchayats / Municipal Wards
iv. Health and Family Welfare Department (for birth registration linkage)
v. Urban Local Bodies & Rural Development Department (site selection & public interface)
vi. Forest and Environment Department (Nodal Department)

**Registration**

**Steps for MRMS Online Registration**

**MRMS Year:** Registration from 1 Aug to 31 Jul will be considered as MRMS year.

i. **Access the MRMS portal**
   - Visit https://forest.sikkim.gov.in/MRMShome/index.

ii. **Start registration**
   - Click on "Register Now" to begin the process.

iii. **Verify mobile number**
   - Enter your mobile number.
   - Click on "Get OTP" to receive a one-time password.
   - Enter the OTP and click "Verify OTP" to proceed.

iv. **Fill in registration details**
   - Parent details: Name of mother and father, mobile number, email (optional).
   - Child details: Name, date of birth, gender, place of birth, birth certificate number (if available).
   - Address details: District, subdivision, block or municipality, complete residential address.
   - Plantation details: Choice of location (forest land, private land, community land), preferred species (optional).

v. **Submit the form**
   - Review the information entered and submit it online.

vi. **Acknowledgment**
   - Parents receive a confirmation message upon successful registration.
   - The Forest Department later coordinates with parents for the plantation process, usually during "Santati Saptah" (7th to 14th July) or as per convenience.

     *For parents who register after 1st August, the plantation activity shall be carried out in the subsequent year.
   - A Welcome Letter from Hon'ble Chief Minister will be Generated in the portal**(Annexure – I)**

**Site Selection/Choice of Species**

**Criteria for Species Selection:**

i. Tree species native to Sikkim's ecological zones.
ii. With focus on wild edible fruit trees, flowering trees and other ecologically important species like Oak (*Quercus* spp.), Rhododendron (*Rhododendron* spp.), Machilus (*Machilus edulis / Persea edulis*), Walnut (*Juglans regia*), Castanopsis (*Castanopsis indica*), Harra (*Terminalia chebula*), Rudraksh (*Elaeocarpus ganitrus*).

**Site Selection for Plantation:**

i. Degraded forest land
ii. Village/Community lands and urban areas
iii. Private holdings
*It should be ensured that no plantation be carried out in Very Dense Forest (VDF) & Moderately Dense Forest (MDF)

**Plantation Protocol**

i. Plantation should be carried out as per species specific, altitude specific during planting season
ii. Avoid monoculture, promote species diversity within each site.
iii. Geo-tag plantation site and upload photos at the time of planting.
iv. Wide publicity in social media & print media.
v. Pit size: 45cm x 45 cm x 45 cmor as per species requirement.
vi. Spacing: 3m x 3m or as per species requirement.
vii. Soil and moisture conservation to be done if required.
viii. Ball-of-Earth Planting: Prevents root exposure, reduces transplanting shock, and ensures higher survival rate.
ix. Basal Cutting and Root Pruning (for nursery stock): (to promote fibrous root growth for better establishment in the field.)

**Plantation Completion Certificate:**

Once planation is done, the details of planation have to be uploaded in the portal. Upon uploading complete details on plantation by the concerned forest official, the QR coded plantation completion certificate will be generated in the portal, which can used by the parents and child for various eligible benefits under the Government. The format of the plantation completion certificate is enclosed **Annexure -II.**

**Post Plantation Care**

i. Enrichment with organic compost and mulching
ii. Staking and Support: Young saplings, especially tall or lanky ones, should be tied to bamboo stakes to protect from wind damage or browsing.
iii. Mulching: Conserves moisture, regulates soil temperature, and suppresses weeds. Apply dry leaves, straw, or organic mulch around the base of the sapling (keeping collar region free).
iv. Protective Measures: Fencing or tree guards to prevent grazing by cattle and damage by wild animals. Live fencing with thorny species may be used.

**Convergence**

Integration with existing other programmes & schemes if possible.

**Monitoring & MIS**

i. Monthly monitoring by Range Officers, bi-monthly by ACF, quarterly by DFO, and half yearly by CFs.
ii. Use mobile-based MRMS Tracking App with GPS, timestamp and photograph features.
iii. Encourage participation of line departments and community institutions such as BMCs, JFMCs, EDCs, NGOs, SHGs, Eco-clubs, and Panchayat volunteers for regular upkeep.
iv. Maintain survival rate database species-wise, district-wise, and parent-wise.

**Recognition & Incentives:**

**a. Sikkim Sishu Samridhii Yojna (SSSY)**

Eligibility for availing benefits under "Sikkim Sishu Samridhii Yojna" of "Mero Rukh Mero Santati Program of Government of Sikkim as per the **notification** from the F&ED bearing reference no: **34/GoS/FED/2024-2025** dated: 19thSep 2024 and **amendment notification** bearing reference no: **GoS/F&ED/PCCF-Secy/2024-25/74** dated 24/03/2025:

a. Parents who are Sikkim Subject/Certificate of Identification holders or those parents whose names are registered in the voter list of Sikkim.
b. Parents who have obtained Plantation Completion Certificate from the Forest & Environment Department, under "Mero Rukh Mero Santati", which shall have to be obtained within 3 years from Date of birth of the Child under the scheme in order to be eligible.
c. Self-declaration stating that parents are not regular employee under any Government Departments as on Date of Birth of the Child.

**b. Digital wall of green heroes on district portals.**

**c. Award to best performing ASHA employees.**

**d. Award to best performing Forest Frontline Officials.**

**By order.**

**Pradeep Kumar, IFS**
**Principal Secretary-cum-PCCF**
**Forest and Environment Department**
**Government of Sikkim**
**File No: - 13/GOS/F&ED/Territorial/2024-25**